

30 January 1947

Country: Germany/Berlin
Subject: SED Post-Mortem on the Berlin Elections
Info. Date: Late October 1946

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1. A meeting of the SED Kreisverband Mitte (Berlin), held on or about 22 October 1946, was devoted to a post-mortem on the result of the elections.
2. Kreisleiter Lehmann stated that former Parteigenossen had voted for the SPD without exception. Before 1933 there had been ten voters per SPD member and twenty voters per KPD member; today there were thirty voters per SPD member and four per SED member. The SPD should be regarded as completely reactionary and carrying out a national-socialist policy. If the SPD were permitted in the Russian Zone, reaction would stand on the Oder-Neisse frontier. There was an economic crisis everywhere in the world except in the U.S.S.R. and in the Russian Zone of Germany. The SPD must be forced to follow the way already taken by the SED. It was, moreover, necessary to raise the level of intelligence of SED members.
3. Lehmann went on to say that the results of the elections in the Russian Zone had not fulfilled the SED's hopes either. Without a doubt many members and supporters of the SED had voted CDU or LDP. The SED, Lehmann continued, had to fight on three fronts - SPD, CDU, LDP - while, in addition, three of the occupying powers were opposed to the SED. The SED was today in the same position as the Jews under Hitler - it was held responsible for everything. The SED must not allow itself to be forced into the position of an opposition but must drive on with its policy. The forthcoming trade union elections must be held at the appointed time. At the moment radicalism was a greater danger for the organization. Attempts to affiliate the Hundertschaften and the Roter Frontkampfbund must be defeated.
4. Further, according to Lehmann, a great mistake had been made in that the party administration had been cleaned up too late. The SED had also been greatly harmed by the action of the Soviets in particular by:
 - a. The compulsory evacuation of homes in the Luiseastrasse;
 - b. The fact that the only PWs released by the Soviets were those who were ill;

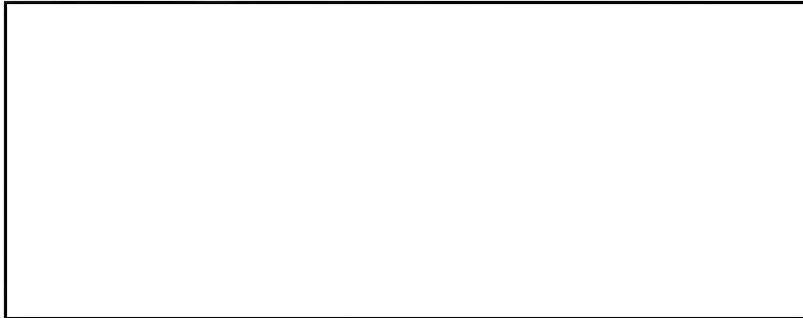
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5. The fact that members of the Soviet forces were constantly appearing in uniform at the party offices.

5. In the discussion that followed Lehmann's statement, Saar, Bürgermeister of Friedrichshain, said that they must reckon on fresh elections within six to nine months. He also stated that the SPD in the Russian Sector had asked the SED Bürgermeisters to remain in office. Lehmann replied that the Landesvorstand of the SED had decided that, where the SPD had the majority, the SPD was to nominate the Bürgermeister.
6. Lehmann-Paul declared that seventeen months had been too short a time to turn the population of Berlin into Communists. The SED was also to blame for the election results.
7. In the course of his remarks, Leitch, Second Bürgermeister of Berlin-Mitte, stated that the organization of the SED Hausleute (house wardens) must be strengthened, as they were the real power factor in the party. It had to be admitted that reaction had won this electoral battle against the USSR, despite the latter's support of the SED.

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